

Maria Siniori: High Priestess of TV Weather

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March 15, 2009

I am really, only sure of one thing in this life. It has nothing to do with great academic thoughts, the inevitability of sex and death, global economics, the humanities or hard sciences. It has everything to do with confirmation of our collective identity as a country, and possibly, how Greece might be perceived by the rest of Mankind. The one thing I am sure of is this single fact: When Maria Siniori crosses the stage each night to present the weather forecast there is a hushed, almost holy reverence to her presence in every witnessing household in Greece, and wherever else they can pick-up the broadcast signal.

Alter's statuesque, singularly beautiful TV-meteorologist gives us the climate news with such utter confidence, savoir faire, sophistication and unassuming happiness that it is sometimes hard to remember what she's told us the weather will be, as one's attention stays riveted exclusively to her person as she speaks. I can't think of another individual in current Greek television who so effortlessly commands such attention from the program viewers.

Known for her stylish leg and hand movements while speaking, Siniori, in our conversation last week, informed me there are no choreographed movements assigned to her, ever, before the broadcast. All movements are organic, unpreplanned, subconscious body manifestations that just happen during the report. However, quite the opposite planning process is true when it comes to clothing selection for each night's weather forecast.

Each night before the broadcast, Siniori chooses one from ten suits and ensembles that her wardrobe consultant has pre-screened for her potential use. This almost fantasy-level, multiple-suit selection event happens five days a week, every week, except for a few days in the summer during her holiday leave

However, at home and on weekends, the haute couture is put on the back burner. "On the weekend I wear my jeans, which I absolutely love to do," she disclosed to me. "I usually wear simple things when I'm alone," she continued, "I dress very different in my private life than the person you see on television. I'm not like Marilyn Monroe running around the house."

She does no special physical exercises or diets to stay in shape, but confesses to walking quite a bit for recreational purposes. Also, she doesn't have a talent agent, and has never been asked to do acting or commercial roles on television. Maria Siniori is, unbelievably, one of the regular guys, just like us, when she's not the nighttime messenger-goddess, TV-icon that drops millions of jaws every evening on the Alter news broadcasts.

On the subject of the current weather girl phenomenon Petroula Kostidou of the Star channel, Siniori is enthusiastic and appreciative of her professional colleague. Kostidou does the nightly weather updates in various boudoire-wear costumes and routinely does sexy-kitsch babytalk to the viewing public. "She fits with the Star programming and she really seems to be doing her best," Siniori said, "she's a smart girl who is taking advantage of a good opportunity."

Maria Siniori is not only the human messenger of climate change, but, in a subconscious way, a chic, smart, female-elemental connection to the cosmological whole. She does not broadcast the

epistemological mindset of Man over Nature or ontological view of Nature over Man, but a sublime affinity of communication between the two parties. A thousand years ago, we would have built a temple to such a woman. Now, in these modern times, she has a broadcast tower to speak to us. She is the high priestess of TV weather. And, if we are smart, we will continue to be thrilled by being her devotees.